



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rocky Mountain National Park
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McGraw Ranch Research Center 2010: What to Expect for Groups



photo courtesy Ruth McGraw

McGraw Ranch Road is privately owned. Please drive 20 mph, pull over for on-coming cars, and wave to our neighbors.

Cost

Per the direction of the Superintendent, there is no cost for NPS groups to use the facilities at McGraw Ranch for meetings and conferences. We may need to limit the number and timing of conferences held at the facility.

Getting here

You will need to rent a car or take a shuttle (a private service which requires advanced reservations) from Denver International Airport. It takes about two hours to travel from DIA to Estes Park. In winter (November to mid-May), we strongly recommend you have four-wheel drive. The private dirt road to the ranch is usually plowed, but the areas around the ranch house, cabins, and parking area will likely be snowy.

The facilities

The cabins are rustic, but comfortable. Each guest will be assigned a private or shared room. Two cabins are single occupancy with private baths; four are private rooms with shared baths; two are shared rooms with shared baths. Each cabin has an electric heater, closet, bed, desk, chair, small dresser, and lamps. There are no televisions or telephones in the cabins.

Bring your own pillows and linens (mattress sizes vary), food (in rodent-proof containers), computer, and sundries including towels. Pack a flashlight or headlamp, and an alarm clock. Pack clothes to match the possibly inclement weather, sturdy footwear, and a day pack for hikes.

The main house has two kitchen stations that include an electric range/oven, refrigerator, sink, microwave, dishwasher, coffee maker, and storage cabinets. Cookware and dishes are provided. Food is not provided. Limited laundry facilities are available on site.

Please do not bring

Pets, kids, or spouses. If you bring them on your trip, they will have to have accommodations/activities in Estes Park.

Audio-visual

We have: conference call ability, wipe board and easel, laser pointer, extension cords, screen, and projector. Bring your own computer. We have a few shared phone lines for dial-up internet access, a fax machine, and a shared printer.

Communication

Because the ranch is nestled in a draw surrounded by peaks, your cell phone or Blackberry will not work here. Most guests get coverage about a mile up the road and in town. Bring a calling card if you want to make phone calls from the ranch phone and a computer if you want to check email. The daytime phone number at the ranch, if you need to be reached, is (970) 586-1471.

The weather

The ranch is at 7,840 feet. Expect snow and/or rain, mud, and wind. All year long we can get gloriously sunny and warm days. Conditions will change often from warm and dry to cold and wet.



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Communications

Cell phones do not work at McGraw Ranch. While phone lines are available for voice and dial-up internet access, no long distance service is provided. Non-NPS personnel are not permitted to use NPS computers. To receive US mail at the park, researchers must request a post box from the property manager (at the warehouse) or from the US Post Office in town. **Researchers are not permitted to have mail delivered to the park administrative address.**

Housekeeping

Each occupant will be responsible for cabin and common area housekeeping. A list of general housekeeping chores is posted, and every resident will complete at least one chore from the list, at least once every other day. This is a condition of occupancy. Some cleaning supplies, including vacuum cleaners, are available for use. On-site laundry facilities are available.

Smoking

Smoking is not allowed in any building at McGraw Ranch.

Guests

Overnight guests are not permitted at McGraw Ranch.

Pets

Pets are not allowed in buildings at McGraw Ranch and may not be left outside or in vehicles overnight.

Accessibility

The kitchen, laundry, work room, conference room, computer lab, one cabin, and field lab are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Researchers should discuss special needs when making a reservation.

Travel to and from McGraw Ranch

The closest airport is Denver International. Because McGraw Research Ranch sits six miles northeast of Estes Park, a private car is necessary. Access is via an unpaved, narrow, steep, private road. The 20 mph speed limit **must** be obeyed at all times. Exceeding the speed limit is grounds for eviction.

Parking

An agreement with the road owners restricts the number of parking spaces available to researchers and to visitors. If necessary, the ranch ranger will assign parking spaces. Visitors must park on the road between the designated signs. Bicycles may be stored in the barn; bicycles are not to be stored inside rooms.